

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 18, 2019

Support for the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Grant for the West Carson Villas Affordable Housing Project

On June 11, 2019, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), which is responsible for administering the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program, released their recommendations for their fourth round of grants. \$402,398,806 in cap-and-trade funding is recommended to benefit 25 projects that have demonstrated their ability to provide affordable housing, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide related benefits. The SGC is expected to finalize these recommendations at their June 21, 2019 meeting.

The County of Los Angeles (County) participated in the submission of three applications during this grant cycle, including the Vermont Manchester Transit Priority Project in South Los Angeles, the Compton Creekside Village Project in Willowbrook, and the West Carson Villas Project (West Carson Project) in West Carson. SGC staff has recommended that the Vermont Manchester Transit Priority Project receive grant funds totaling \$20 million. They have also recommended that the West Carson Project be designated as a “substitute project” that would be awarded funds in the event that one of the 25 projects recommended for award is ultimately not able to move forward. Overall, of the up to \$402,398,806 recommended for award, only \$84,965,400, or 21.11%, is proposed to be invested across Los Angeles County, despite the fact that the County represents more than a quarter of the State’s population.

The West Carson Project would create 110 units of supportive and affordable

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

housing and community transportation infrastructure improvements in close proximity to the Harbor-UCLA Medical Campus, which is a burgeoning hub for jobs within the health care and bioscience fields. The West Carson Project is fully entitled, and has already received funding through the Los Angeles County Development Authority's Notice of Funding Availability 24A. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors is expected to consider, on June 25, 2019, financial support of \$1.1 million in Rule 20A funding available to the Second District, to facilitate the undergrounding of utility lines in the areas adjacent to the West Carson Project. With the AHSC grant, the West Carson Project would be able to draw down non-competitive 4% tax credits and move into construction. Given the dire nature of the region's homeless and affordable housing crisis, all efforts should be made to move forward the construction of this noteworthy project.

The SGC is anticipated to provide even more funding beyond its current \$402,398,806 Round 4 Notice of Funding Availability during the next grant cycle, which is anticipated to be initiated this fall. With such significant fiscal resources available to SGC in the immediate future, strong consideration should be made to also fully fund the West Carson Project at this time.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to the California Strategic Growth Council expressing the County of Los Angeles' appreciation of the proposed grant to fund the Vermont Manchester Transit Priority Project, and respectfully request that they also fully fund the West Carson Villas Affordable Housing Project (West Carson Project) as part of the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Round 4 Awards, and direct the County of Los Angeles' Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to take all appropriate actions to advocate for the necessary funding to complete the West Carson Project.

###

(KK)

CATEGORIES: (Please check those that apply)